

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LEO VIRGINIUS WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Leo Virginus Williams, Jr.

Born on April 14, 1926, to the late Bessie and Leo V. Williams, Sr., Leo Williams was a Norfolk native and a 1943 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School. He was also a 1951 graduate of Norfolk Division of Virginia State College, a 1953 graduate of Virginia State University, and a 1963 graduate of the University of Virginia.

Mr. Williams served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946 as a Pharmacist Mate Third Class before beginning college. He was among the first African Americans in the U.S. Navy to serve in the Medical Corps and among the first African Americans to receive a graduate degree from the University of Virginia.

Following his graduation from Virginia State University, Mr. Williams began his career as an educator teaching math and business at Ruffner Middle School. He also served as the principal at Titustown, Robert E. Lee, and Oceanair Elementary Schools. Robert E. Lee was one of the first integrated schools for staff members in 1963, and Oceanair Elementary School was one of the first to have an African American principal. Leo's calm spirit and commitment to educating our students demonstrated a level of excellence quickly noted by the community and his superiors.

From 1967 to 1969, Mr. Williams served as the Assistant Director of the Norfolk Model Cities Program as a representative from the Norfolk School Board. He was promoted to Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel in Norfolk Public Schools (NPS). With this promotion, he became the first African American to serve on the Urban Assistance Incentive Fund Advisory Committee appointed by Former Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. In 1971, Mr. Williams became the Director of Pupil Personnel for the Norfolk School Board. He was also the first African American to serve in this role and was appointed to serve on the Urban Assistance Incentive Fund Advisory Committee by Former Governor Linwood Holton.

Mr. Williams retired in 1995 with more than 40 years of service to NPS. In 1998, he became an adjunct professor at Norfolk State University, where he taught school law and school community relations at the graduate level. In 2010, he returned to Norfolk Public Schools, where he remained until 2016. He retired again in 2016 at the tender age of 90 after years of service to our community.

Mr. Williams' commitment to our children and improving our education system is inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize his leadership and legacy. Coastal Virginia is a better place because of him.

HONORING RICHARD RUHE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible career of Richard Ruhe. I

know him personally and you will not find a kinder, gentler or more professional and dedicated teacher than Richard. I'm excited to honor him with this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today so that others can get to know the same man I do.

After beginning his teaching career in public school districts in Arizona, Arkansas, and Texas, Richard and his family moved to Missouri in 1991 when he accepted a position at my alma mater Greenwood Laboratory School on the campus of Missouri State University to teach instrumental music for grades 6–12. At that time, the high school band was comprised of a grand total of 3 students. Due to Richard's passion and dedication the music program at Greenwood grew exponentially over the course of his 25-plus years at Greenwood to include nearly the entirety of the secondary student body, year after year. The Greenwood band program became one of the strongest in the state, routinely winning national competitions against schools many times its size, and dozens of students achieved individual awards at the district and state levels.

While the success of the band program was absolutely phenomenal in terms of achievement, what really made it special was the sense of belonging, purpose, and acceptance so many students found within it. When Richard talks about his time at Greenwood now, while I know he's immensely proud of what the band program accomplished and all of his students' achievements over the years, he most often speaks about individual students as individual people and the time he spent getting to know them on hours-long bus rides to competitions, or when they'd pile into the band room between classes, at lunch, or after school to socialize with one another, or seek refuge from a hard day, in a place that felt safe. To so many students, he was an endlessly patient teacher, a mentor, a trusted advisor. It didn't matter how much inherent musical ability any given student had, they were part of the band's success, and they belonged in the band room. I know that is worth more to Richard than any of the trophies the band collected.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that Richard Ruhe has prioritized not only developing students' musical talents, but also forming them into young adults. His work with Greenwood Laboratory School is admirable.

RECOGNIZING KENNETH CHARLES
(K.C.) STOCK

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable man, Kenneth Charles (K.C.) Stock.

Born in 1938 in Oconto, WI, K.C. was the oldest of three children. He graduated from Oconto High School in 1956, and at the age of 19, K.C. began building houses and running a farm with Holstein cows which he raised for beef. Following two years at St. Norbert College in De Pere, K.C. left to begin working at Scanlan and Stock, after which he started his own pallet business in Oconto. K.C. was the bookkeeper, truck driver, purchasing agent, and had two employees at his small business.

In the midst of starting his own company, K.C. met and married the love of his life, Ms. Georgia Soulek.

While K.C.'s family expanded, so did his business. K.C. continued to grow his business operations and in 1971 he bought his first contractor yard, Scanlan and Stock, the same yard where he started his career years earlier. K.C. renamed the company Stock Lumber and would grow the company across the Midwest, opening locations in Green Bay, Appleton, Princeton, Fond Du Lac, Stevens Point, Sussex, Delavan, Windsor, La Crosse, Eagan, and Rochester. K.C.'s entrepreneurial spirit was evident in all that he did from Stock Lumber to his ownership of Cruiser Yachts in Oconto, Wisconsin. He built lasting businesses that granted many members of Northeast Wisconsin stable, family-supporting jobs.

As his business grew, so did his efforts to give back to his community. In 1991, he founded the K.C. Stock Foundation which played an instrumental role in funding the Children's Hospital in Northeast Wisconsin at St. Vincent Hospital to ensure that many families would not need to travel across the state for treatment. In recognition of his leadership in the community, K.C. was awarded the 1999 Free Enterprise Award presented by the Rotary Club of Green Bay. It is evident through his numerous accolades that KC left a lasting impact and influence on his family, friends, employees, and our entire community. I wish to thank K.C. for his lifelong dedication to our community and I offer my sincere condolences to his family and friends during this time.

Madam Speaker, the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank K.C. Stock for his immeasurable dedication and commitment to his community. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Georgia, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and to all of the lives he touched throughout our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF RONALD W. LASCH

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of Ron Lasch.

Ron was a friend and advisor to me and hundreds of other Members of both parties during his 42-year career as a Floor Assistant in this body.

Ron came to the House as a 16 year old Page in 1958 when Joe Martin was the Republican Leader. He graduated from the Capitol Page School in 1960 alongside other men with long careers in the House, such as former Representative Jim Kolbe, who also passed away just days ago, and the late Donald K. Anderson, former Clerk of the House.

As a Floor Assistant, Ron monitored the proceedings on the floor and advised Members on scheduling and procedure. He valued the rules and traditions of the House, and more than once, privately talked a Member out of heated words that, spoken in anger, would likely be ruled out of order.

Ron retired in 2000, so there is a dwindling number of current Members who knew him, but at the time of his retirement, many of my

colleagues paid tribute to his judgement and dedication. His impact, behind the scenes, was immense. He was a mentor not only to Members, but to other people who staffed the floor, particularly the many Pages who have come and gone over the years.

Ron was born a year after Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1942, and died on November 14, 2022. His classmate, Congressman Jim Kolbe, died days later on December 3rd. Donn Anderson died July 30, 2020. I am personally grateful for the service of these three men of the House.

Madam Speaker, I include in the Record a statement from the Honorable Robert E. Bauman, one of Ron's colleagues on the staff here who later represented the First District of Maryland in the House.

IN MEMORIAM—RONALD W. LASCH

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. BAUMAN, FIRST DISTRICT, MARYLAND (1973–1981)

Owen Lovejoy, a member of the House from Illinois (1857–1864), was close to President Abraham Lincoln, who called him “my most generous friend.” On an obelisk in Princeton, Illinois, in his honor are the words of Lincoln: “Let him have his marble monument along with the well assured and more enduring one in the hearts of all those who love Liberty unselfishly and for all.”

Indeed, Lincoln was correct; true friendship is a matter of the heart. Ron Lasch was my friend, and a respected friend to many on Capitol Hill during the 37 years he served on the House Republican floor staff.

He started his 42-year House career as a Page in 1958, sponsored by Representative William B. Widnall of New Jersey. In 1963, he was named as telephone clerk in the House Republican Cloakroom. Ron joined me there where I was also a phone clerk.

On November 22, 1963, a Friday, the House had adjourned when news of President Kennedy's death in Dallas came over the news tickers in the House Lobby. Ron and I were flooded with anxious calls to the cloakroom.

It is no exaggeration to say that Ron Lasch made possible my elective career to the Maryland State Senate and to Congress. He did so by working the cloakroom phones countless late days, allowing me to go to night school and obtain degrees from Georgetown University foreign service and law schools.

As manager of the Republican Cloakroom, he knew intimately party positions and floor developments and became a trusted source of information for Members and their staffs. He mentored many Pages over the years and was a graduate of the Capitol Page School in the Library of Congress.

In 1968, after I resigned and returned to my home on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Lasch became manager of the Republican Cloakroom, the official floor source of information for Republican Members.

As a private space for Member interaction, the cloakroom was ideally suited for Lasch to answer questions about pending legislation. He was a friend and protector of the gracious lady who for decades ran the cloakroom lunch counter, the late Helen Jones Winfield Sewell. When Ron retired in 2000, many House Members joined in paying him tributes.

Ron was trusted because of his vast knowledge of House parliamentary procedure and traditions. He understood the personal side of lawmaking, forging relationships with Members from both sides of the aisle. He was careful to respect House Members, remembering his staff role. But while he was a quiet, reserved presence, in private he had his own sardonic estimate of those he served.

Ron's role as Republican floor staffer expanded over the years, culminating in his

work as Floor Assistant to Speaker Newt Gingrich in 1995. In my opinion, Gingrich could have avoided many of his subsequent troubles had he taken Ron's advice about House rules.

My own daughter, Genie Eardley, a House Page (CPS Class of 1983), knew him well and called Ron “irreplaceable.” As Lincoln suggested, Ron's monument endures in the hearts of those who knew and respected “the gentleman from New Jersey.”

ESTEBAN E. TORRES POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7832 to rename the post office located at 396 South California Avenue in West Covina, California after the late Congressman Esteban E. Torres, a long-time San Gabriel Valley legislator and beloved community leader.

A proud son of immigrants, Rep. Torres dedicated his life to serving his community, our nation in uniform, and working families across Eastern Los Angeles County. I proudly introduced this legislation with Rep. LINDA SÁNCHEZ so future generations will remember Rep. Torres' legacy and be inspired by his service to our region and nation.

Rep. Torres was born on January 27, 1930, in Miami, Arizona. Shortly after finishing high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army from 1949 to 1953 during the Korean War conflict and was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant first class.

After attending various institutions including, the Los Angeles Art Center, East Los Angeles College, and California State University Los Angeles, Rep. Torres was subsequently elected to serve California's 34th district. He represented the cities of Artesia, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, Pico Rivera, parts of Whittier, South El Monte, Industry, La Puente, Baldwin Park, and West Covina for 16 years in Congress. During his first five terms, Rep. Torres served on the House Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs and the Small Business Committees. In 1993, he was named to the powerful Appropriations Committee where he was responsible for delivering millions of dollars for public transit projects in Los Angeles County and throughout the State of California and advocating for U.S. policies that advanced democracies throughout the world. Rep. Torres also served as Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and as a Deputy Whip for the House's Democratic leadership.

Rep. Torres also was an accomplished artist. His art was featured in the Washingtonian Magazine, at numerous galleries throughout Los Angeles, and admired by his colleagues in Congress, friends, and family. Among his proudest accomplishments was being one of the founders, along with Supervisor Gloria Molina, of LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, a world-renowned museum honoring the past, inspiring the future, and recognizing the cultural influence of Mexicans, Mexican Americans, and all Latinx in the greater Los Angeles community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 7832. Renaming the West Co-

vina Post Office in Rep. Torres' honor will be a small token of gratitude for his lifetime of dedication to his community and country.

HONORING MRS. KATHY J. THOMAS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my district staffers, Mrs. Kathy J. Thomas. I met Kathy in 2019 and quickly brought her on staff as a Constituent Liaison in my Gulfport district office. During her tenure, Kathy has assisted nearly 3,000 constituents through casework with compassion and dedication.

Kathy grew up in West Virginia in the small town of Follansbee. In 1988, she graduated from Brooke High School, and shortly thereafter, she married her high school sweetheart, Mark. After their wedding, she and her new husband moved to Biloxi, MS, where he served in the United States Navy Seabees. Her grandfather, Kale E. Wells, served in the United States Navy during WWII. Kale would have been proud of her decision to marry Mark as he rose through the ranks to retire after serving 30 years as a Command Master Chief.

Kathy and her husband raised two beautiful, intelligent daughters, Taylor and Riley. Taylor graduated from Mississippi State and the University of South Alabama and works as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at USA Children's and Women's Hospital in Mobile, AL. Riley graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and recently started a job at the DuBard School for Language Disorders in Hattiesburg, MS.

Kathy attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, earning an associate degree. Kathy volunteered for years as an ombudsman as her husband served and deployed with the United States Navy Seabees. While raising her daughters, she worked as a preschool teacher and assistant teacher. Her passion and dedication to helping others led her to work as a Congressional Liaison making a difference in the daily lives of the constituents of South Mississippi.

Kathy has been a valued, loyal, dedicated, and compassionate asset to my staff and me. I am grateful for her positivity and can-do attitude over the years. Madam Speaker, I am honored to express my gratitude to Mrs. Kathy Thomas for her service to Mississippi and my constituents.

COMMENDING DR. CHRISTA MARTIN FOR HER SELFLESS SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY AND THE GREAT STATE OF TENNESSEE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Dr. Christa Martin of Columbia, Tennessee.